

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6660

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ROK PRESS FOCUS ON VLADIVOSTOK

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS HAS GIVEN MAJOR ATTENTION IN PAST TWO DAYS TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL MEET WITH CHARIMAN BREZHNEV AT VLADIVOSTOK. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER FRONT PAGE HEADLINES, OCT 29 ARTICLES SAID THAT LOCATION OF SUMMIT INDICATED ASIAN SITUATION WOULD BE A PRIME ITEM ON AGENDA AND THAT SOVIET COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL AND US POLICY IN ASIA WOULD BE PROBED IN DEPTH. SEOUL DATELINED ARTICLES REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS CONFIRMING ROKG VIEW THAT KOREA WOULD BE TAKEN UP AT VLADIVOSTOK. BOTH SEOUL AND WASHINGTON DATELINED STORIES REPORTED THAT U.S. LIABLE TO SEEK COMPROMISE ON KOREAN ITEM IN UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THAT USG WOULD ALSO SEEK TO EXPLAIN SEOUL'S DESIRE FOR RELATIONS WITH ITS LARGE COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS. QUOTING WASHINGTON
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DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, GOVERNMENT OWNED KOREAN HERALD ITEM SAID

USG WOULD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO SEOUL FOLLOWING
VLADIVOSTOK MEETING TO EXPLAIN RESULTS.

3. OCT 30 PAPERS CARRIED COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER
KIM DONG JO BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE THAT HE COULD NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF
KOREA BEING DISCUSSED AT VLADVOSTOK BUT HE DID NOT
THINK IT WOULD BE A MAIN ISSUE. KIM REPORTEDLY SAID
THERE IS A BASIC UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ROK AND THE US
THAT NO DECISION WILL BE MADE ON KOREA'S FATE
WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION, AND THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF
PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SEOUL IS THAT POLITICALLY IT WILL
STRENGTHEN ROK/US TIES AND REAFFIRM US COMMITMENT TO
ROK SECURITY.

4. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS ALSO BEEN EXTENSIVE AND
HAS WELCOMED MEETING. UNIVERSAL VIEW IS THAT KOREA WILL
INEVITABLY BE DISCUSSED AND THAT SUMMIT WILL BE
OCCASION FOR U.S. TO SELL ROK POSITIONS. EDITS
HOWEVER SHOW SOME NERVOUSNESS ABOUT POSSIBILITY
OF BIG POWERS SETTling KOREA'S "DESTINY BY SOMETHING
LIKE ANOTHER YALTA TREATY."

5. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD
AMBASSADOR THAT ADVANCE NOTICE OF VLADIVOSTOK MEETING
GIVEN TO ROKG WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE SAID ROKG
PLEASED THAT SUMMIT MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED BUT
THAT ROKS DID NOT EXPECT MUCH IN THE WAY OF POSITIVE
RESULTS AS FAR AS KOREA CONCERNED. THERE WAS NONETHE-
LESS A DEGREE OF WISTFULNESS IN HIS COMMENT THAT SOME
PROGRESS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, AND HE INDICATED THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD FOLLOW SUMMIT CLOSELY. ONE
MEASURE OF ROK INTEREST WAS MOFA PROTOCOL CHIEF'S SUB-
SEQUENT COMMENT TO DCM THAT ROKS WOULD BE WATCHING
CAREFULLY TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT RUSSIANS SEND GROMYKO
OR SOME OTHER EMISSARY TO PYONGYANG FOLLOWING SUMMIT.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THEY HAVE NOT SAID SO TO US DIRECTLY IT IS
CLEAR THAT ROKG WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DEBRIEFING FROM
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EMISSARY WHO ATTENDS VLADIVOSTOK SUMMIT. THEY
UNDOUBTEDLY RECALL DEBRIEF BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MARSHALL GREEN FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NIXON'S 1971
TRIP TO PEKING.
SNEIDER

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